

TITLE: GOD IN A BOD! The “Hypostatic Union” of Christ

*The Apostle Paul wants to make sure we get the right Jesus and some of the truth about our Savior can make your brain hurt-
Somethings beyond comprehension ☺*

SIMPLE DEFINITION: Christ Jesus who has always been fully God, 8 times in the OT “temporarily” appeared in human form, HOWEVER at His birth He willingly took on human flesh, ALWAYS being fully God He also became fully Man!

Col. 2:1 *For I want you to know how great a struggle I have on your behalf and for those who are at Laodicea, and for all those who have not personally seen my face,*

Col. 2:1 *For I want you to know how great a **struggle** agon, (ag-one)...an effort or anxiety: — conflict, contention, fight,*

IN CONTEXT here is how Paul handles his anxiety-**struggles through prayer!**

*See Col. 1:3 “We give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ **praying** always for you”*

I have on your behalf and for those who are at Laodicea, Laodicea appears to have the same or similar false teachers attacking that church...AND from the Book of Revelation, we find the church at Laodicea appears to have fallen from a passion for Christ and obedience to His great commission as John has Jesus pointing to their LUKEWARM FAITH!!!!!!!

and for all those who have not personally seen my face, **Paul has a heart for believers in the Church no matter where they are! And a good point for you and I to be reminded of....** that EVERY church and every PERSON that calls on the name of Christ is your brother and sister and should be treated like family *Even if they disagree with you on non-essentials of our faith and EVEN if you have never seen their face....AS LONG AS THEY WORSHIP THE “SAME JESUS”!*

Here is Paul’s specific PRAYER...For ALL BELIEVERS!

- ² that their hearts may be encouraged,
- having been knit together in **love (LOVE HERE = AGAPE...not love as the world understands, but a choice for believers to love as God loves us)**
- and attaining to all the wealth that comes from **the full assurance of understanding**, resulting in a true knowledge of **God's mystery**, that is, Christ Himself, ³ in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. There is a wealth of knowledge and a **FULL ASSURANCE in a correct understanding of the Gospel**, which is the MYSTERY OF GOD that has been revealed! P. Kyle talked about this last week....

God's mystery is a Messiah Savior, (God Himself) would come to this earth as the second ADAM, as a human man to save the WORLD for sin...to the Jew first and to the Gentile...AND to ALL PEOPLE! (To anyone who wants to get saved to eternal life)

There is no other secret knowledge from human teachers that God has not already revealed!

There is no other human wisdom that can save or add to the finished work of Christ...The song "Jesus paid it all" SAYS it ALL!!!!

IN OTHER WORDS, you can take all the false teaching found in all the false teacher's collective wisdom with all THEY teach about God *including HIS WISDOM/MYSTERY REVEALED* and ALL their "HUMAN" PHILOSOPHY about God....**Collect it all together and it's nowhere to be found on the sharp end of God's pencil!** 😊 These false teachers in Colossians were bankrupt mentally 😊

⁴ I say this **so that no one will delude you with persuasive argument.** ⁵ For even though I am absent in body, nevertheless I am with you in spirit, **rejoicing to see your good discipline and the stability of your faith in Christ.**

Paul again wants to make sure these churches have the RIGHT JESUS in the face of persuasive argument of false teachers!

John 1:18 No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, **He (Jesus) has explained Him.**

Heb. 1: 3 *And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature*

Paul says he is “rejoicing to see your good discipline and the stability of your faith in Christ.”

How does one come to have a “stable” faith... Paul will answer coming up in VERSE 6 “to walk in Christ”

POINT: Good Discipline of “Daily” walking with Christ on a REGULAR BASIS, brings “stability” of your faith in Christ

“stable” faith? Does NOT come through some special knowledge, but through the truth that GOD LOVES “YOU” ...and sent Jesus to this earth who took on human flesh so as to die on a cross for you, was buried and rose again 3 days later in a new glorified body, to conquer sin and death on YOUR BEHALF!!!!

4 I say this so that no one will delude you with persuasive argument. 5 For even though I am absent in body, nevertheless I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good discipline and the stability of your faith in Christ.

Only the full knowledge and wisdom of Christ can keep a believer from being deceived by fine-sounding arguments 1Cor. 1:20 *Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?*

POINT: A Strong STABLE Faith comes through “Discipline” ...NOT some grand statement of Faith like Peter made... “Even if everyone else leaves you, I will never deny you Lord”! **BUT, through simple DAILY FAITHFUL choices of obedience to the Word of Christ found in our BIBLES ☺**

6 Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, This does NOT have to be some super spiritual choice of becoming a pastor or a missionary for life, (A noble calling)But this is simply a

call to **WALK IN JESUS** whatever you do or wherever you are called in life by God!

1. If a husband of wife...to be the best spouse in Christ as you walk in *daily* obedience to His Word!
2. If a mom or a dad, to be the BEST parent God has created you to be as you walk in *daily* obedience to His Word!
3. If a child or student, to be the BEST kid God has created you to be as you walk in *daily* obedience to His Word!
4. If a widow or widower, to be the BEST person God has created you to be as you walk in *daily* obedience to His Word!
5. I think you get the idea by now 😊... this call is universal and personal to each and every one of us...You don't have to be a SUPER CHRISTIAN, just a DAILY MATURING DISCIPLE of Jesus 😊

***7** having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude.*

For a plant/tree to mature and bear fruit, it needs THREE THINGS...Soil, Light and Water

AS BELIEVERS....

•We are each ROOTED by faith in Christ Jesus...**ROOTED IN GOOD SOIL!**

•We have been given SONLIGHT...**Found each and every day in the LIGHT of God's Word!**

•We have been given water of which we will never thirst...**The EVERLASTING LIVING WATER of Christ Himself**

In other words, WE LACK FOR NOTHING and have no excuse for NOT bearing good fruit IF we ABIDE IN CHRIST....

I know I'm out of order, but I want you to see the end of Paul's argument here...

***10** and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority*

In Christ Jesus, we lack nothing, in fact, Jesus placed His Holy Spirit inside every believer as a seal! AND whatever the false teachers were peddling...*that you have to ADDITIONALLY do such and such to be saved...*

OR...That faith alone in Christ alone is NOT enough was a lie!!!!

10 and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority

BTW: This verse takes away any and all excuses to willfully sin ☺
You can't blame the enemy for your bad choices...:) (NOT FLIP WILSON)

The apostle John reminds us of the protection we have in Christ & His H/S

1 John 4:4 *“Greater is He who is in you, than he who is in the world”..*

CHRIST IS THE AUTHORITY OVER “ALL” RULE AND AUTHORITY

INCLUDING DEMONS!!!! THEY HAVE NO AUTHORITY IN THE LIFE OF A BELIEVER ☺

ALSO THE AUTHORITY OF YOUR SALVATION BELONGS TO JESUS AS WELL BECAUSE IT IS JESUS WHO SAVES!...(The author and perfecter of faith)

In other words, man, or religious leaders are NOT the authority on salvation, Jesus is!!!

AND JESUS MADE IT PRETTY SIMPLE.... **John 11:25-26** *Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?”*

AND THIS IS WHAT DRIVES PAUL TO SAY IN VERSE 8...

8 *See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ.*

WE are to be as the Bereans, searching the Word of God for TRUTH....NOT verses out of context, BUT THE “WHOLE” COUNSEL OF GOD!

LET’S GO BACK TO ONE OF THE MOST AMAZING VERSES IN THE WHOLE BIBLE FOR A DESCRIPTION OF “WHO JESUS REALLY IS”

⁹ For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form

This is perhaps the most powerful verse in the Bible of WHO Jesus is AND what He did on our account...

In theological terms, we call this **the Hypostatic Union** whereby God the Son, (Jesus the Christ), took on human flesh, while remaining fully God!

Hypostatic Union recorded throughout Scripture:

1. **Col. 1:9** *For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form*
2. **Is. 7:14** *“Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, **a virgin will be with child and bear a son**, and she will call His name Immanuel.*
3. **Is. 9:6** *For a child will be born to us, **a son will be given to us**; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, **Mighty God, Eternal Father**, Prince of Peace.*
4. **Hebrews 2:14** *Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, He himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death He might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil,*

5. John 1:14 *And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, **and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father** At transfiguration AND post resurrection at His ascension to heaven*
6. 1Tim. 3:16 *By common confession, great is the mystery of godliness: He who was revealed in the **flesh**, was vindicated in the Spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world, **Taken up in glory.***
7. 1Cor. 15:42-49 *So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown a perishable body, it is raised an imperishable body; ⁴³ **it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory**; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; ⁴⁴ it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. ⁴⁵ So also it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living soul." The last Adam (Jesus) became a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶ However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural; then the spiritual. ⁴⁷ The first man is from the earth, earthy; the second man is from heaven. ⁴⁸ As is the earthy, so also are those who are earthy; and as is the heavenly, so also are those who are heavenly. ⁴⁹ Just as we have borne the image of the earthy, we will also bear the image of the heavenly.*

The hypostatic union...

Is the phrase that describes Jesus, the second person of our divine TRIUNE God who took on human flesh, would forever from his birth on earth and forever more into eternity future have TWO NATURES...One Fully Man and the other Fully God AT THE SAME TIME!!!! **(Giant Aspirin**

Time 😊)

- Jesus born of the Holy Spirit through the Virgin Mary, had no sin nature, but was tempted by Satan in every way a man could be tempted, yet overcame ALL temptation and remained sinless

FORMAL DECLARATION

- **Jesus's two natures are perfectly united in his one person. Jesus is not divided. He is not two people. He is one person. As the**

Chalcedonian Creed states, His two natures are without confusion, without change, without division, and without separation. Jesus is one.

In addition to taking on human flesh, Jesus He took on “Servanthood” to His humanity “AND” God the Father.. These are qualities we are to imitate!

And It’s Called The “Kenosis”- Taking on humility

Philippians 2:4-8 *Do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. ⁵ Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied (GK. Kenoo = Kenosis) Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. ⁸ Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.*

It’s BEST to think of Christ’s “emptying” of Himself as a laying aside of the privileges that were His in heaven.

Rather than stay on His throne in heaven, Jesus **gave up his divine privileges** and **veiled** His glory, except for a short time at the Mount of Transfiguration witnessed by Peter, James and John.

IMPORTANT: The kenosis was NOT an emptying Himself of deity. Nor was it an exchange of deity for humanity. Jesus never ceased to be God during any part of His earthly ministry.

Jesus also voluntarily refrained from using His divinity to make His life easier. During His earthly ministry, Christ completely submitted Himself to the will of the Father

John 5:19 *Therefore Jesus answered and was saying to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless it is something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner.*

Importance of Physicality

Because Jesus was in a physical body...

1. He was our Perfect, Substitutionary Atonement for human sin so that believers would have a way back to God through the cross of Christ
2. His Physical resurrection from the dead into a **NEW human glorified body** was proof of His Deity **and** fulfillment of promises
3. He taught His followers what forgiveness, humility, selfless service and agape love look like so that we might imitate those qualities for the benefit of others
4. He can comfort us in our times of great hurt and suffering and loss
Jesus is truly a friend like no other who has “personally” experienced any pain, suffering and loss you might be going through, *Who **suffered** like no other, who **hurt** through rejection and betrayal, Who **wept** at the death of Lazarus and also outlived Joseph!*
5. As our Creator, He understood our need for HUMAN TOUCH. (Think of Jesus touching the leper, the worship He received by Mary's tears at His feet and the deepening of Thomas' faith when Jesus told him to "TOUCH" His hands and feet and to place his hand in Jesus side)
Covid?
6. Our invisible God became visible so that we can more easily relate to Him, worship Him, know Him and have a personal relationship with the physical God, Christ Jesus!
7. He has proven that temptation and sin can be overcome by use through His power...AND His Holy Spirit Who lives in us
8. He gives us a glimpse of what our resurrection bodies will be capable of in the future, eating, drinking, AND touch...they will be glorified, recognized by others at times, incorruptible, eternal, not to mention interdimensionality, **WE WILL NOT BE DISEMBODIED SPIRITS!!!** 😊

Finally, when Jesus ascended back to heaven to His throne, the Church would be called the Body of Christ...The Hands and Feet of Jesus to those who don't know Him!

And this is where the rubber meets the road for each of us.... Let us be found faithful to love others as **God has shown His love** to each of us through the "PHYSICAL" BODY OF CHRIST JESUS...